

## AFFIDAVIT

I swear that the following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As an agent, I am responsible for investigating alleged violations of federal criminal law, including kidnapping. I know the following from my personal observations and from the reports of law enforcement officers and other witnesses. This affidavit does not contain all of the information developed in this investigation.

2. Title 18, Section 1201 makes kidnapping a crime. That statute states in pertinent part that:

“Whoever unlawfully seizes, confines, inveigles, decoys, kidnaps, abducts, or carries away and holds for ransom or reward or otherwise any person, except in the case of a minor by the parent thereof, when-

(1) the person is willfully transported in interstate or foreign commerce, regardless of whether the person was alive when transported across a State boundary if the person was alive when the transportation began.”

Kidnapping is punishable by up to life imprisonment.

3. Between approximately 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday April 13, 2003, a male child, age 2, identified here as “T.H.”, was abducted from outside his home at 3038 Sydenham Street, Philadelphia, PA. At the time he was abducted, his mother reported that T.H. was outside his house playing with other children. A neighbor reported seeing a middle-aged African-American female, approximately 40-45 years old, approximately 5'5" tall, approximately 140-150 lbs, wearing a lime green jacket in the area at the time holding the hand of a boy fitting T.H.’s description. This witness assisted police in drawing a sketch of the possible kidnapper. Another witness gave a similar description to police of the woman he saw walking with T.H. at about 7:00 p.m., and also assisted in drawing the police sketch of the kidnapper.

4. On April 14, 2003, Detectives Imfeld and Weber of the Atlantic City, NJ Police Department responded to a phone call reporting that there was a homeless woman with a young juvenile at the Pittsburgh Hotel, 142 S. Tennessee Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey. When the officers arrived, they met the owner, John Hartnett, who explained that the African American woman, identified as Verna Session, DOB 01/14/60, was found sleeping in the lobby of his hotel with an African-American boy she identified as her son. Mr. Hartnett had seen Verna Session in the hotel before, but had never seen her with a child before.

5. Ms. Session told police that she came to Atlantic City from Philadelphia in January and that she had been sleeping wherever she could. She said that she couldn’t stay in Philadelphia, because she couldn’t get medical treatment there. She identified the boy as her two year old son. The child was only wearing a black sweater and pants with no jacket, despite the fact that it was

about 40 degrees out. Police Called the Division of Youth and Family Services (“DYFS”) and turned over both Verna Session and the child to a caseworker, Ms. Alberetta Redd, there.

6. DYFS Caseworker John Garrity began talking to Ms. Session, and she became belligerent, and eventually she left the building, leaving the boy with DYFS. A worker at DYFS recognized the child as T.H., whose photograph he had seen on television as being kidnapped. Consequently, T.H. was returned to his mother on April 14, 2003.

7. On April 15, 2003, Detective Gall of the Philadelphia Police Department conducted a photograph lineup with one of the witnesses. He positively identified a photograph of Verna Session as being the woman he saw walking away from the 3000 block of Sydenham Street on Sunday night with T.H.. The witness related that he already knew T.H. by sight from seeing him in the neighborhood.

8. Based upon the foregoing information, I believe that probable cause exists to charge Verna Session with the kidnapping of T.H., in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1201.

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Keith R. Holdsworth  
Special Agent, FBI

Sworn and subscribed before me this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2003.

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Carol Sandra Moore Wells  
United States Magistrate Judge